IMPORTING A POPULATION

BY EDWARD P. IRWIN,
In the Pacific Monthly

(Continued from Yesterday)

Then a "Dash of Spanish."

Three years ago E. R. Stackable, Collector of the Port of Honolulu, was sent to Europe to drum up labor for the plantations. He sent in several shiploads of Portuguese and Spaniards. The Portuguese, as previously stated, have done well in Hawaii, and promise to make good citizens in the second and third generation. The Spaniards, however, are not so satisfactory. One shipload of them arrived by the steamship Heliopolis on April 27, 1907. They were small but wiry people and have demonstrated their ability to stand fairly well the hard work of the plantations. But few of them, for many years, anyway, will ever be anything but plantation laborers. They have little initiative and are afraid to take on any proposition that looks big to them. A few of them have taken out their first citizenship papers and filed on Government land, but the large majority are still working for the pitiful wage paid by the plantations, which, in many instances, is only eighteen dollars for twenty-six days' work in the month.

The Spaniards are an immense improvement over the Porto Ricans, but there are few, even of the plantation men, who have the assurance to proclaim that they are liable to make good American citizens as Americans understand the term.

Welcome, the Little Brown Brother.

President Taft ought to be delighted at the appreciation of the little brown brother that is being shown by the sugar planters of Hawaii. They have within the past two years developed a mighty affection for his proteges and are not happy unless they have plenty of them about. Almost every steamer that arrives at Honolulu from the Orient brings a consignment of Filipinos for the plantations, and thousands of them are now working in the cane fields of the Territory.

As the Philippines are part of the United States, the laws against the employment of contract labor do not apply to immigrants from those Islands, nor have the Federal immigration authorities any jurisdiction. Consequently, Hawaii can bring in all the Filipinos that can be induced to leave their native home, and there is no one to forbid.

This being the case, it is not necessary for the planters to work through the Territorial Board of Immigration. They can send their own agents to the Philippines to recruit labor, and this is what they are doing. The labor bureau of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association has two special agents, L. E. Pinkham and O. A. Steven, in the Philippines enlisting laborers, and they have been fairly successful, so far as the number of laborers sent to Honolulu is concerned. In fact, they have been so successful that for months the Manila press has been protesting vigorously against the Hawaiian agents being allowed to take out of the country the laborers which the Philippines need as badly as Hawaii does.

The Filipinos who have been brought to the Territory have given little or no trouble since their arrival, and they work fairly well in the cane fields, though on account of their small size and lack of strength, they cannot do the work of a sturdier race.

Unless the United States finds some dignified way of losing the Philippines, we may have to greet the little brown brother as a fellow citizen—but he hardly seems exactly the material that one would naturally choose to aid in the Americanization of the Hawaiian Islands. Yet he is part of the concoction that some of the disinterested and patriotic financiers would have their fellow citizens accept as evidence of the "Americanization of Hawaii."

In the year 1900 a small experiment in the importation of Tyrolese was made, a special agent, named Joe Lucca, bringing in a few people of this nationality from Austria. The number imported, however, was so small that no judgment can be formed as to their desirability.

Latest Experiment Most Disastrous.

The latest experiment in the importation of material wherewith to create a population for the Hawaiian Islands has proved to be the most disastrous and vexatious.

Last summer a Russian, named A. Perelstrous, a well-educated and intelligent man, who, so he said, had been a big contractor in Siberia, went to the Territorial authorities and the heads of the sugar planters' association and made a proposition that they turn to Manchuria for laborers. There were in that country, he said, many thousands of sturdy Russian peasants who had been sent out there by their home Government to populate the country and make it thoroughly Russian. But the Government had failed in its promises to provide them with land, tools and the means of sustenance, and they were, consequently, in an almost starving condition. These people, he was sure, could easily be persuaded to migrate to Hawaii if their passage were paid.

The proposition looked good to the labor-hungry planters, and a contract was entered into with Perelstrous, by the terms of which he was to go to Harbin and enlist fifty families, totaling about 250 persons, as a sample of what he had to offer. A. L. C. Atkinson, formerly Secretary of the Territory, was sent with Perelstrous to represent the Territorial Board of Immigration so that everything should be legal and according to the requirements of the Federal immigration authorities — ostensibly so, at any rate.

The two special agents went and got the fifty families, who, a few months later, arrived at Honolulu. They were a sturdy-looking lot of men, women and children, and the planters and Government officials were delighted. Perelstrous and Atkinson reported that any number required, even up to 100,000 or more, could easily be obtained on the same terms. So they were sent back for more.

A Threating Cloud.

But even before the second lot arrived a cloud considerably larger than a man's hand had appeared on the Russian labor horizon, and it spread rapidly until now it has overcast the whole industrial sky.

The second lot of Russians were met at the wharf by their fellow countrymen and were told awful tales of what they might expect on the plantations. The work, complained the first arrivals, was very hard, the wage too small to live on, the houses given them were not fit to live in—in short, all the promises of the planters and the immigration agents were being ruthlessly disregarded by the plantations. In short, everything was wrong and Hawaii no place in which to hope for anything better than they had left in Manchuria.

Without further investigation, the new arrivals accepted the word of their countrymen and flatly refused to go to work on the plantations. And every steamer from the Orient brought more Russians to swell the ranks of the discontented.

Diphtheria, contracted in Kobe, broke out among the new immigrants, and it was necessary to place them all in quarantine. This they took as an indication of the tyranny of the Government and they became more dissatisfied and rebellious than ever. When the disease was finally eliminated and they were told that they might leave quarantine and go to work, they refused to do so. They said the planters, and the Government owed them a living, having brought them to the Islands, and they would stay right where they were and collect that living.

The Governor and his assistants argued with them, pleaded with them, reasoned with them, pointed out how they might better their condition by going to work. All to no effect. They didn't want to work and they wouldn't work.

Meanwhile, the board of health and the board of immigration had been feeding them and providing them with shelter while the Governor and Secretary handled them with gloves and dealt out soft words. As a last resort it was decided to stop this, the officials believing that starvation might drive the Russians to the plantations. So they were cast out of Eden—driven from the quarantine shed where they had been taking life easy, and were told that they must shift for themselves. Their miserable bundles were moved off the quarantine reservation and dumped on the ground outside.

(To be Concluded)

DEMOCRATIC MEETINGS
Tonight, November 2nd
AT KALIHI PUMP, WAIPAHU AND AIEA

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES WILL SPEAK

AT KALIHI PUMP

B. G. RIVENBURGH
IOELA KIAKAHI
LESTER PETRIE
CHAS. H. ROSE
W. W. THAYER
JACK S. KALAKIELA
W. H. McCLELLAN
WM. P. JARRETT
R. H. TRENT

AT WAIPAHU AND AIEA

W. S. EDINGS
J. J. FERN
M. C. PACHECO
M. E. SILVA
CHAS. BAKER
EDWARD HANAPI
ROBERT PAHAU
H. H. PLEMER
J. C. ANDERSON